



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of
Stephen B. Maguire

Serial No.: 10/084,030

Group Art Unit: 3651

Filed: January 31, 2002

Examiner: TBA

For: VACUUM LOADING SYSTEM

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SEPT 4
2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Under the heading "Cross-Reference to Related Patent Application",
delete the present paragraph and substitute therefor the following paragraph:

--This patent application is a divisional patent application of United States application Serial No. 09/597,502 filed June 20, 2000 which was a continuation application of United States application Serial No. 08/907,787 filed August 8, 1997 now U.S. Patent No. 6,089,794 issued July 18, 2000, and, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119 and 120, all of these are entitled, directly or indirectly, to the benefit of the filing date of provisional United States application 60/023,933, filed 9 August 1996 in the name of Stephen B. Maguire and entitled "Vacuum Loading Apparatus and Method"--

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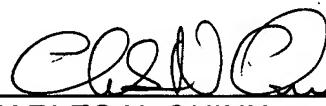
Attachment A is a marked-up copy of this paragraph showing all of the changes made, and Attachment B is a clean copy reflecting all of the changes made to this paragraph.

In the Drawings:

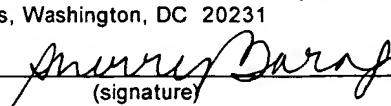
Two versions of Figure 31 having slightly different appearance but not differing substantively one from another were forwarded with the application as filed. Accordingly, please delete the Figure 31 corresponding to the enclosed sheet of drawing.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 15 May 2002


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<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231</p> <p> (signature)</p> <p>BY: <u>Sherry Barag</u></p> <p>DATE: <u>May 15, 2002</u></p>
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ATTACHMENT A - MARKED-UP COPY

Cross-Reference to Related Patent Application

This patent application [is based on and entitled to the benefit of the filing date of provisional United States patent application 60/023,933, filed 9 August 1996 in the name of Stephen B. Maguire and entitled "Vacuum Loading Apparatus and Method", pursuant to 35 USC 120] is a divisional patent application of United States application Serial No. 09/597,502 filed June 20, 2000 which was a continuation application of United States application Serial No. 08/907,787 filed August 8, 1997 now U.S. Patent No. 6,089,794 issued July 18, 2000, and, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119 and 120, all of these are entitled, directly or indirectly, to the benefit of the filing date of provisional United States application 60/023,933, filed 9 August 1996 in the name of Stephen B. Maguire and entitled "Vacuum Loading Apparatus and Method".